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Brief Chronicle of the last Fortnight.

SALE (Cheshire).—The Sacred Harmonic Society of this village concluded their first season on the 31st March; when an audience of some hundred and fifty expressed themselves much pleased at the progress made.

MACHINE-MADE PAPER.—A committee has been formed to raise such a fund, by public subscription, as will purchase an annuity for the two daughters of the late Mr. Fourdrinier, the inventor of the paper-making machine, who died last year, aged 87, having expended and lost a large fortune in the perfecting of this invention. Subscriptions can be paid to Geo. Chater, Esq., the Treasurer, 39, Queen-street, Cheapside.

M. ALEXANDRE BILLET's second performance of classical pianoforte music took place on Friday, March 30th, and was attended by a numerous audience. M. Billet particularly distinguished himself by his wonderful execution of the presto finale to Mendelssohn's *Fantasia in F# minor*; and in Fumagalli's very characteristic "*Taiaut*," *Chasse in Eb*; both of which were encored, and each time received with hearty applause. M. Billet also performed a very pretty and graceful "*Impromptu en forme d'Etude*," of his own composition.

VAN LERUS's picture of Adam and Eve is an embodiment on canvass of the living picture drawn by Milton in his *Paradise Lost*, and illustrated by Haydn in his oratorio of *The Creation*. It is the work of several years, and has been exhibited with great success in Brussels. It will well repay a visit to 57, Pall Mall, where it is now on view.

MR. H. GLOVER gave his Annual Benefit Concert on the 3rd April, at Sadler's Wells Theatre. The programme contained the usual large number of vocal artists' names.

MR. GEORGE CASE's Annual Concert took place on the 11th April, in Exeter Hall; the bill of fare for the evening presenting the accustomed amount of quantity, to the apparent satisfaction of the audience.

MR. ALLCROFT, this leading purveyor of monster concerts, gave his last grand performance of the present season, on the 2nd April, at the Lyceum Theatre. The crowded state of the audience bore testimony to Mr. Allcroft's well-known care in providing all the best musical talent that liberal engagement can command. Madame Clara Novello was the principal vocalist on the occasion.

MR. ALFRED MELLON's first concert afforded an agreeable contrast to those performances against which we remember the celebrated buffo, Lablache, making one of his humorous protests. He said, "At these long concerts the audiences are hypocritical idlers, who, under pretence of listening to music, indulge in a quiet nap; for it is impossible that the attention can be kept awake during four long hours of successive pieces." At Mr. Mellon's concert, quality was evidently the first consideration; as an evidence of which, we quote the well selected programme:

PART I.

Overture, "Ruy Blas"	Mendelssohn
Duetto, "Nella Notte," (Huguenots), sung by Madame Clara Novello and Herr Formes.	Meyerbeer.
<i>Fantasia</i> , Violin, "Rigolotto," (first time of performance) performed by M. Sainton	Sainton.
Scena, "Ocean thou mighty monster," sung by Madame Clara Novello.	Weber.
Symphony, "Pastoral,"	Beethoven.

PART II.

Overture, "Heloise," (first time of performance)	A. Mellon.
Aria, "Deh Vieni," (Figaro), sung by Madame Clara Novello	Mozart.
Adagio and Rondo, Pianoforte, in B minor, performed by Mr. W. G. Cusins	Mendelssohn.
Aria Buffa, "Largo al Factotum," (Il Barbiere), sung by Herr Formes	Rossini.
Overture, "Carnaval Romain,"	Hector Berlioz.

HEREFORD MUSICAL FESTIVAL.—We trust shortly to be able to announce that arrangements are made, and a period fixed, for the above meeting; its importance to the Widows and Orphans of the Clergy is well known, and its strong claims on public support generally admitted. The following gentlemen have consented to become Stewards, and we hope that the list will soon be completed:—The Right Hon. and Rev. the Lord Saye and Sele, D.C.L., Sir H. J. Brydges, Bart., T. W. Booker, Esq., M.P., J. H. Arkwright, Esq., E. Chadwick, Esq., W. T. Kevill Davis, Esq., H. S. Stratford, Esq.—*Hereford Times*.

ECCLESIOLOGICAL SOCIETY.—The Motett Meetings of this society for the present year, are fixed for May 2nd, June 4th, and July 9th; and will be held in St. Martin's Hall. A peculiar interest is attached to these meetings, from their programmes chiefly consisting of Gregorian and other ancient sacred music of the Palestrina and early English school. A subscription of ten shillings furnishes six admissions, on either date. Single tickets are a florin.

MARLBOROUGH LITERARY INSTITUTION.—We attended, on the 4th, a lecture given in the theatre of this institution, by Sir Robert Peel, Bart., when a crowded and brilliant audience assembled to hear the young statesman make his first metropolitan essay as a lecturer. The subject comprised readings from some of the great and acknowledged poets—including Shakespeare, Milton, Pope, Byron, &c.; and the passages selected for illustration were given with a force and earnestness which made even those familiar with the extracts feel how great a charm may be imparted to fine writing by a natural and forcible delivery. Amongst other topics touched upon by Sir Robert Peel, was one of overwhelming interest to himself—he entered into a narrative of his miraculous escape from shipwreck in the early part of last year, when nearly all on board perished. He was coming from Genoa, when the vessel was lost; and it will be remembered that after an immersion of nearly three quarters of an hour, he was at length enabled to save himself by swimming to a boat. He had for some time been clinging to the broken mast of the vessel, with three others—seamen belonging to the vessel, and one by one he saw them sink, from exhaustion, into the deep; his youth and energy, however, enabled him to escape the horrors of shipwreck. The manner in which this account was given was full of fervour, and fully justifies the opinion we have here expressed of his power of appreciating the poetic works of the great writers: it was indeed "an evening with the poets."—*From a Correspondent*.

MR. COWDEN CLARKE has just concluded a long lecture tour in the north of England and in Scotland; during which he has lectured to crowded audiences at Wakefield, Bradford, Leeds, Lancaster, Carlisle, Newcastle-upon-Tyne, Paisley, Falkirk, Vale of Leven, Lenox town, and at Edinburgh, in the Philosophical Institution.

SYDNEY CHORAL SOCIETY.—We understand that this association of amateurs—several of them veterans in the "joyous science," and associates of musical societies in England—has received a considerable accession of members during the past year, and that their weekly rehearsals at the school-room in Castlereagh-street are now devoted to the practice of the principal songs, duets, and choruses in Handel's oratorios of *Judas Maccabæus* and *Samson*, and Mendelssohn's *Elijah*, preparatory to an open (or visitors') night early in the ensuing month. Excepting the *Messiah*, which has been well got up by the Sydney Choral Society, Handel's imperishable oratorios are yet unheard in this colony; and it is therefore highly creditable to the Society that they have devoted their musical knowledge to compositions of such celebrity as *Judas Maccabæus*, which is considered inferior to the *Messiah* only in the sublimity of its subject matter.—*Sydney "Morning Herald," December 14th, 1854.*

WESTERN MADRIGAL SOCIETY.—We were among the fortunate guests invited to celebrate the sixteenth anniversary, on the 29th March. After an excellent dinner, all present, with few exceptions, took part in the following as excellent selection of music:—

PROGRAMME.—*Part I.*—Kyrie in F, s.s.a.t.b. (Leonardo Leo); Madrigals, "Speed to my Celia," (by Renaldi)—"What needeth all this travail?" (Wilbye)—"See, where with rapid bound," (Luca Marenzio); Anthem, "Almighty and everlasting God," (Gibbons); Villanella, "Tell me, O lady fair," (Feretti); Madrigal, "All hail, thou merry Month," (Bird).

Part II.—Motetts (Palestrina); Madrigals, "Now morn awaketh," (Anerio)—"The Fauns and Satyrs," (Thomas Tomkins)—"No din of rolling drum," (Striggio)—"Stay, Corydon," (Wilbye); concluding with Saville's "The Waits."

IPSWICH.—The Musical Union gave a sacred choral concert on the 30th of March, consisting of selections from Handel's *Judas Maccabeus*, and Haydn's *Creation*. The principal vocalists were Madame Clara Novello, Mr. Mann, and Mr. Farquharson; principal instrumentalists, Messrs. Bray, Card, Lazarus, Pettitt; and an orchestra and chorus of 100 performers. The success of the entire performance reflected high credit upon the director, Mr. A. Bowles.

HARROW-ON-THE-HILL.—Mr. Hatton (organist of this town), gave a highly attractive concert of miscellaneous music before a crowded and fashionable audience. In the course of the evening, Mr. Hatton played Beethoven's Duet in F (for pianoforte and violin) with Mr. Henry Blagrove. A choral class has been established at Harrow, with every prospect of doing well.

LIVERPOOL SATURDAY EVENING CONCERTS.—A grand concert was given on the 31st of March, at the Concert Hall, Lord Nelson Street, the artistes being Mr. Paget, Mrs. Paget, and Miss Witham. Conductor, Mr. Joseph Skeaf, Jun. The audience, which was an excellent one, seemed much delighted by their well-executed pieces.

CHICHESTER.—The lay vicars of the Cathedral, assisted by Mrs. Pillaw, of Canterbury, gave a very charming concert in the Assembly Room, which was well filled by most of the influential families of the city. The first part consisted of selections from the *Creation*. The second part was a series of songs, glees, duets, &c. On the whole, this was the best entertainment ever given by the gentlemen of the cathedral choir.—*Brighton Herald*.

CARLISLE.—On the 27th of March the members of the Carlisle Choral Society gave a concert of sacred music in the Mechanics' Lecture Hall, in aid of the fund recently established for the benefit of the distressed poor. The concert was under the patronage of the Worshipful the Mayor (Robert Ferguson, Esq.) and the Very Rev. the Dean of Carlisle, and was attended by the *élite* of the town and neighbourhood, the room being crowded to excess in every part. The Choral Society has been in existence rather more than twelve months, and numbers about forty members. Mr. Pattinson officiated as conductor, and Mr. Cockbain presided at the melodium. The entertainment on the whole gave general satisfaction, and yielded £30 to the fund for the poor.

MISS MARIA B. HAWES.—It is rumoured that the lady who formerly bore this maiden name, and who enjoyed high consideration as a concert-singer in this country, is about to return to the profession which she has quitted since her marriage.

HARMONIC UNION.—Handel's *Messiah* was performed on March 28th, at the Hanover Square Rooms, by the members of this society. The performance was excellent, and reflected the greatest credit on the Harmonic Union. With such principals as Madame Clara Novello, Mr. Sims Reeves, and Mr. Weiss, and a conductor of such distinguished excellence as Herr Molique, a complete execution was ensured for the solos.

MR. STERNDALÉ BENNETT'S SOIREEs.—The second of these classical concerts took place on Tuesday evening, and, like the first, was honored with a distinguished and fashionable audience. The programme was, perhaps, even better than the first, as the reader may see:—

PART I.

Trio (in B flat), pianoforte, violin, and violoncello	Mozart.
Solo Sonata (No. 2, Op. 40, in B minor), pianoforte	Clementi.
Morning Hymn	Purcell.
Sonata (in G major), pianoforte and violin, Op. 30	Beethoven.

PART II.

Studies, pianoforte.	
Duo, pianoforte and violoncello Op. 53, in D major	Mendelssohn.
Sabbath Song	Meyerbeer.
Selections from Preludes and Lessons, Op. 38.	W. S. Bennett.

In Mozart's graceful and melodious trio, Mr. Sterndale Bennett had Herr Ernst and Sig. Piatti as coadjutors. The performance was irreproachable. Clementi's sonata—his finest—was executed with appropriate fire and impetuosity by Mr. Bennett in the quick movements, and with exquisite taste in the short and singular *Largo, Mesto e Patético*. Purcell's Hymn was well sung by Madame Clara Novello, who is always at home in our old English music, of which this is a capital specimen. With Herr Ernst at the violin, and Mr. Sterndale Bennett at the piano, the very original and charmingly capricious Sonata in G could not have enjoyed a more genuine and poetical interpretation. The studies—all delightfully played—were by Steibelt (in F and A), Cramer (in F), Cipriani Potter (in A minor), and Moschelles (in E flat—the one called *The Nursery Tale*). Mendelssohn's splendid duet taxed Mr. Sterndale Bennett's and Sig. Piatti's utmost skill. The playing of both was wonderfully fine, especially in the quaint and lovely *Allegretto Scherzando* in B minor, one of the composer's most inimitable and tantalizing movements. The song of Meyerbeer was as well sung as that of Purcell's, and Mr. Bennett's own graceful and attractive pieces, from his new *Practises and Lessons*, performed by himself, brought the concert to a close with effect.—*Musical World*.

CANTERBURY.—Mr. Gough's concerts for the people concluded their season successfully on the 27th of March.

TONBRIDGE WELLS.—A morning and an evening concert of sacred music, in aid of the Patriotic Fund, were given here on the 28th of March; the principal vocalists were Miss J. Wells, Mr. George Genge, and Mr. Gough, of Canterbury.

ST. LEONARDS-ON-SEA.—The choral society established at this place now about twelve months, have lately given two public performances, to which their friends and the public were invited to be present. The proceeds of their concert on the 26th of March were given in aid of the funds of the infirmary.

CHOIR BENEVOLENT FUND.—The anthems to be performed at Eton on the 17th of April (*see ante page 344*), are, "God is gone up," Gibbons; "O give thanks," Tucker; "Sing we merrily," Child; "I was in the spirit," Blow; "O God, thou art my God," Purcell; "In thee, O Lord," Weldon; "God is our hope," Greene; "Hallelujah," Handel.

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